



News Release

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Commissioner

For Release:
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Department of Health and Senior Services Proposes to Amend N.J.A.C. 8:83A, which establishes the Lifeline Credit and Tenants Lifeline Assistance Programs

The Department proposes amendments to N.J.A.C. 8:83A, which establishes the Lifeline Credit and Tenants Lifeline Assistance Programs. The programs provide financial assistance to eligible lower income senior citizens and disabled individuals in the amount of \$225 towards the cost of their residential gas and electricity bills. Tenants receive assistance in the form of a check if their utility costs are included as part of their rent. Utility customers are given a credit that is applied to their utility bill. The proposed amendments would require applicants for the Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program to fully complete the application, including providing the amount of rent paid as a tenant. Applicants would also be required to provide the name of the landlord.

The proposed amendments would require applicants for the Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program, when requested, to provide the Department a copy of the rental agreement, the Tenant Verification Form or a document that contains all the information and signatures required by the Tenant Verification Form. The Tenant Verification Form would be attached as Appendix A to the chapter and incorporated by reference.

The proposed amendments would also provide that applicants shall be eligible for the Lifeline Credit Program and the Tenants Assistance Lifeline Assistance Program if they comply with the application requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:83A-3.

The notice of proposal appears in the March 21, 2011, issue of the New Jersey Register. LexisNexis® provides free on-line public access to the New Jersey Administrative Code and the New Jersey Register at <http://lexisnexis.com/njoal>.

The public has until May 20, 2011, to comment on the proposal. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal must submit their comments in writing to Devon L. Graf, Director, Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, PO Box 360, Trenton, NJ 08625. Written comments on the proposal must be postmarked on or before March 21, 2011, which is the close of the 60-day public comment period for the proposal.